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# Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01
/099 W
----------171620Z 067252 /65
R 171412Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4460
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, IS
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS DISCOVERY OF OIL SIGNS IN SOUTH SINAI

1. THE JANUARY 17 AFTERNOON ISRAELI PRESS QUOTED NATIONAL OIL COMPANY DIRECTOR LIOR AS STATING THAT POSITIVE OIL SIGNS WERE DISCOVERED LATE LAST WEEK AT A LAND SITE NAMED "A TUR 2" IN SOUTHERN SINAI, ALTHOUGH THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DISCOVERY WAS YET TO BE DETERMINED. IT WAS ALSO STATED THAT DRILLING IS NOW BEING DONE AT ONE OFFSHORE (GULF OF SUEZ) AND THREE LAND SITES IN SOUTHERN SINAI, AND THAT TWO ADDITIONAL DRILLINGS IN THIS AREA ARE PLANNED.

2. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSSY'S QUERY, OFFICIAL OF PAZ COMAPNY (WHICH OWNS 25 PERCENT OF THE A TUR OPERATION) STATED THAT THE "OIL-SHOW" WAS OIL STAINS ON CORE ROCK WHICH HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE. HE STATED THAT ONLY ADDITIONAL DRILLING AND TESTING WILL SHOW IF COM-MERICALLY EXPLOITABLE QUANTITIES OF OIL HAVE IN FACT BEEN DISCOVERED AT A TUR.

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3. REGARDING OTHER OIL DEVELOPMENTS, WE NOTE THAT A SERIES OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING LOSS OF LIFE HAVE PLAGUED OPERATIONS OF THE ISRAELI DRILLSHIPS. AN AMERICAN EXPERT WAS RECENTLY KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT IN THE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, WHILE AN ISRAELI WORKER WAS KILLED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ON THE DRILLSHIP OPERATING IN THE MEDITERRANNEAN. THE ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR OF

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LAPIDOT HAS TOLD US THAT THE ACCIDENT ON THE DRILLING RIG IN THE GULF OF SUEZ LEFT A 17-INCH HOLE IN ITS DECK TEMPORARILY PUTTING THE RAFT OUT OF OPERATION. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT LAPIDOT, WHICH IS THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE LAND DRILLING AT A TUR, IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP A NEW DIAGONAL DRILLING THERE.
DUNIGAN

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NNN

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
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**Litigation History:**
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Page Count:** 2
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** PRESS REPORTS DISCOVERY OF OIL SIGNS IN SOUTH SINAI
**TAGS:** ENRG, IS
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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**Review Markings:**
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